

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 00037 022222Z

61

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PBOR, ECON, BL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANZER'S YEAR END ADDRESS TO THE
BOLIVIAN PEOPLE

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BANZER BROADCAST HIS END OF
THE YEAR MESSAGE TO THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE OVER RADIO
AND TELEVISION ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 31
RECOUNTING THE NATION'S SUCCESSES IN 1975 AND OUT-
LINING THE MAJOR PROJECTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT FOR 1976.
THE SPEECH, WHICH CONTAINED NO SUUQRISES, WAS
DEVOTED IN MAJOR PART TO THE SEA OUTLET THEME WITH
THE PRESIDENT STATING THAT THE SUPREME NATIONAL
OBJECTIVE IS NOW A RELAITY AND THAT HE BELIEVES
1976 WILL FUNDAMENTALLY BE THE YEAR OF BOLIVIA'S
RETURN TO THE PACIFIC. HE CALLED FWR HEMISPHERIC
SUPPORT FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD CONSOLIDATE PEACE
AND LEAD TO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COLLABORATION IN THE
ZONE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REGARD TO 1975, THE PRESIDENT PRAISED THE CIVIC
MATURITY OF THE POPULATION WHICH MADE POSSIBLE GREAT
POLITICAL-ECONOMIC STABILITY RESULTING IN A 7.3 PERCENT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 00037 022222Z

INCREASE IN THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AND US\$300 MILLION

IN PUBLIC INVESTMENT.

3. BANZER STATED THAT THERE WAS STILL MUCH TO DO IN 1976 AND SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS: PRESERVATION OF SOCIAL PEACE AS AN INDISPENSABLE PREREQUISITE FOR DEVELOPMENT, INCREMENTATION OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, THE FLOW OF FOREIGN CAPITAL TO 300 MILLION DOLLARS, REDUCTION OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURES, EXPANSION OF PRIVATE SECTOR CREDIT, INCREASE IN NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS AND SELECTIVE SUBSTITUTION OF IMPORTS, REORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES, GUARANTEE OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE, AND MAINTENANCE OF SALARY BUYING POWER THROUGH INFLATION CONTROL AND COLATERAL POLICIES.

4. ON THE SEA OUTLET ISSUE, THE PRESIDENT CHARACTERIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR AS A BRILLIANT DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN WITH HISTORIC RESULTS. HE INSISTED THAT THE RETURN TO THE SEA MUST BE A CREATIVE RATHER THAN A DISCORDANT MILESTONE FOR THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE. THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, IS NOT USING THE ISSUE AS A PLATFORM OR AS A MEANS OF DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES BUT UNFORTUNATELY

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO FALL SO AS TO PLACE THE BLAME ON THE GOB. HE REITERATED THAT THE PEOPLE WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER MORTGAGE, SELL OR BETRAY THE NATION.

5. HE REPEATED THAT BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED CONDITION AFFECTS THE WHOLE CONTINENT AND THAT THERE CAN BE NEITHER INTERGRATION, EQUALITY, NOR JUSTICE IN AMERICA IF BOLIVIA DOES NOT OBTAIN ITS OWN SOVEREIGN OUTLET TO THE SEA. THIS PROBLEM OF INTEREST TO ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE, IS OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THOSE OF THE SOUTHERN CONE WHICH ASPIRE TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE AND COLLABORATION IN THE ZONE. FOR THESE AND OTHER FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS, THE PRESIDENT STATED, IT IS IMPERATIVE TO HAVE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 00037 022222Z

FAITH IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND SOLIDARITY OF THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE WHICH IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER HAVE THE POWER, WITH THEIR SUPPORT, WITH THEIR CONDUCT OR WITH THEIR EXAMPLE, TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

6. COPY OF SPEECH IS BEING POUCHED TO THE DESK.
STEDMAN

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